

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of making an optical reagent format with a capillary gap, comprising:
providing a carrier with an insert, said carrier and insert being of a predetermined thickness;
placing said carrier in a mold;
molding a format onto said carrier and insert;
separating said insert from said carrier; and
removing said insert from said format leaving a capillary gap in said format.
2. The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 1 further comprising applying reagent in said capillary gap.
3. The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 1 said capillary gap having open sides, and sealing said open sides of said capillary gap.
4. The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 1 further comprising removing said format from said carrier.
5. The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 1 providing a plurality of carriers joined together and each including an insert, and molding a format onto each of said plurality of carriers and inserts.
6. The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 1 said format including a pair of legs, further comprising forming said capillary gap between a pair of legs of said format.
7. The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 1 wherein molding said format comprises molding a first format on an upper surface of said carrier and molding a second format on a lower surface of said carrier.
8. The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 7 wherein said first and second formats are of a conical configuration.

1 9. A method of making an optical reagent format with a capillary gap, comprising:
2 providing a carrier of a predetermined thickness;
3 providing an insert on said carrier;
4 molding a format onto said carrier and said insert with a portion of said insert
5 extending out of said format; and
6 removing said insert from said format to provide a capillary channel with an
7 inlet and a vent in said format formed by said insert.
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9 10. The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 9 comprising
10 removing said carrier from said format.
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12 11. The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 9 said insert
13 comprising a material of a melt temperature higher than the melt temperature of the
14 material of said format.
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16 12. The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 9 comprising
17 molding said format with a first leg for the application of a light source and a second
18 leg for the application of a light detector, said capillary channel being between said first
19 and second legs.
20

21 13. The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 9 comprising
22 molding said format with a first conical member on a first side of said format and a
23 second conical member on a second side of said format with said capillary channel
24 between said first conical member and said second conical member.
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26 14. A method of molding an electrochemical sensor using a sacrificial insert,
comprising:
27 providing a first mold;
28 inserting a first electrical contact in said first mold;
29 inserting a second electrical contact in said first mold;
30 closing said first mold with a second mold;
31 injecting material for forming a sensor into said closed first and second molds;
32 curing said material; and
33 extracting said sacrificial insert from said sensor.

1 15. The method of molding an electrochemical sensor claimed in claim 14 wherein
2 extracting said sacrificial insert includes clamping said insert and moving said sensor
3 relative to said insert.

4 16. An electrochemical sensor, comprising:

5 a sensor base;

6 a sacrificial insert on said sensor base;

7 a first electrical contact and a second electrical contact in said sensor, said
8 sacrificial insert positioned between said first electrical contact and said second
9 electrical contact; and

10 plastic material on said sensor base and over said sacrificial insert, said plastic
11 material of a formulation which allows removal of said sacrificial insert from said
12 plastic material and said sensor base leaving a capillary channel in said casting material.

13 17. A tool for extracting a sacrificial insert from an electrochemical sensor,
14 comprising:

15 a clamp for clamping a sacrificial insert in a stationary position;

16 a first block moveable relative to said clamp;

17 a drive member for moving said block relative to said clamp; and

18 an attachment member on said block to attach a sensor with a sacrificial insert
19 onto said block.

20 18. The tool claimed in claim 17 further comprising a base, said clamp including a
21 second block secured to said base.

22 19. A sensor, comprising:

23 a sensor body;

24 a first access window in said sensor body;

25 a second access window in said sensor body; and

26 an insert in said sensor body between said first access window and said second
27 access window.